

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 3, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 18, 28 and 29-41 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 18-41 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 29-41 are objected to because of informalities. Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for the suggestion for amendment and have amended the claims to reflect such. Accordingly, the objection is overcome. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

In the Office Action, claims 18-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,281,957, issued to Oh et al. (hereafter "Oh") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,251, issued to Hibino et al. (hereafter "Hibino"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because Oh is not valid prior art against the claims of the present application. Specifically, Applicant submits Oh and the claims of the present application were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Accordingly, Oh is not valid prior art against the claims of the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c).

Further, Applicant submits Hibino, alone, fails to teach or suggest the combination of features recited in claims 18-41 of the present application. For example, Hibino fails to teach or suggest an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display (LCD) device that includes "source or drain electrodes on the pixel electrode, the source or drain electrodes being connected with the pixel electrode on the buffer layer" as recited in independent claim 18 and its dependent claims 19-27. Hibino also fails to teach or suggest a method of manufacturing an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display (LCD) device that includes "forming a source electrode and a drain electrode on the pixel electrode, the source and drain electrodes being connected with the pixel electrode on the buffer layer" as recited in independent claim 28 and its dependent claims 29-41.

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Because Hibino, alone, fails to teach at least these features of independent claims 18 and 28, claims 18-41 are allowable over Hibino.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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